

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejected 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite, (ii) rejected claims 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; and (iii) rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter In the interests of efficiently furthering prosecution.

Applicants hereby amend claims 1-15 and cancel claim 16. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

I. Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. In particular, the previous claims included terms to indicate possibility or probability such as “can be” and “may have”. By this response, Applicants have amended claims 1-9 to remove terms indicating possibility or probability and replaced them with assertive terms as suggest by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submits that claims 1-9 as amended are not indefinite, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

II. Claims 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as failing to recite statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the claim bodies recite an apparatus while the preambles claim a method. In the interest of efficiently furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 10-15 to more clearly recite the steps of the claimed methods. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the claims as amended recite statutory subject matter, and request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101 be withdrawn.

III. Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as failing to recite statutory subject matter. Claim 16 has been canceled, and as such the rejection of this claim is moot.

Conclusory Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-15 as amended are allowable and are now in condition for formal allowance, and early and favorable action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number below if doing so will in any way advance prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit in the overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **07-1896** referencing Attorney Docket No. **348162-982830**.

Respectfully submitted,

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